



Serial No.10/844,108

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 3, 2006, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following remarks. In this amendment, Claims 1 and 12 are amended, claim 17 has been cancelled without prejudice, and no claims have been added so that Claims 1-16 remain pending.

Claims 13-16 have been withdrawn from consideration.

The specification was objected to for a number of minor informalities which have been corrected by Applicant. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully request.

Claims 1-12 and 17 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0019375 to Casey II et al. (Casey). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Anticipation exists only if all of the elements of the claimed invention are present in a system or method disclosed, expressly or inherently, in a single prior art reference. Therefore, if it can be shown that there is one difference between the claimed invention and what is disclosed in the single reference, there can be no anticipation.

Independent Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to clearly set forth the invention as having pleats in a particular pattern in both the radial and longitudinal direction to provide radial support. Casey only has the pleats in the longitudinal direction to make his device more flexible. Since Casey fails to disclose or suggests pleats in both directions, there can be no anticipation. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.



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A favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/Carl J. Evens/

By _____

Carl J. Evens
Reg. No. 33,874

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-2518
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